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Johnson, E. B.
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McCrery
McDade
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Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
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Reyes
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Roemer
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Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Rothman
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Roybal-Allard
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Sawyer
Saxton
Scarborough
Schaefer, Dan
Schaffer, Bob
Schumer
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Sensenbrenner
Serrano
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Shays
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Sisisky
Skeen
Skeltton
Slaughter
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)

Smith (OR)
Smith (TX)
Smith, Adam
Smith, Linda
Snowbarger
Snyder
Solomon
Souder
Spence
Spratt
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Weller
Wexler
Weygand
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Whitfield
Wicker
Wise
Wolf
Woolsey
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—10

Brown (CA)
Dicks
Hamilton
Houghton

Lofgren
Moran (VA)
Nadler
Paul

Pickett
Skaggs

NOT VOTING—15

Blumenauer
Burton
Callahan
Cubin
Fattah

Filner
Gonzalez
Klug
McCollum
McDermott

Quinn
Riley
Schiff
Shadegg
Yates

□ 1706

Ms. WATERS, Mr. ROEMER, and Mr. BERMAN changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, due to an official meeting, I was unable to be present for the vote on rollcall No. 614. Had I been here, I would have voted "yes."

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2264, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the previous order of the House, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 2264) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Pursuant to the previous order of the House, the conference report is considered as having been read.

(For conference report and statement, see prior proceedings of the House of today.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER] and the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY] each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER].

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the conference report to accompany H.R. 2264 and that they may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. PORTER. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to bring to the floor today the conference report on fiscal year 1998 appropriations bill for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies.

As is normally the case, in the recent past, this bill has been through a long, torturous process from inception to the completion. The bill was on the floor for over 40 hours, and we had an unprecedented number of amendments offered. We have been almost 2 months in conference.

I feel constrained to add, Mr. Speaker, that virtually all of the issues that have delayed the timely consideration of this bill are authorizing in nature and have nothing to do with the funding activities of the departments and agencies covered by this bill. Our work on dollar issues was completed long ago.

My experience over the last several years has given me a new appreciation for the rules of the House that prohibit legislating on appropriation bills, and the delay we faced speaks to the need to enforce it more stringently.

Mr. Speaker, with that said, I want to outline the remarkable policy initiatives we have achieved in this bill. The bill contains a revision of the Hyde amendment to ensure that no Federal funds are used to purchase health plans that pay for abortions except in the case of rape, incest, or endangerment of the life of the mother.

I am particularly proud that this signal achievement was accomplished by negotiation among the parties rather than the rancorous and divisive debates that have characterized this issue in the past and other issues during consideration of this bill.

I want to commend the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. HYDE], the distinguished chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, and the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. LOWEY] for their work on this issue, as well as their staff members Howard Wolfson, Brad Close, and my own staff member, Rob Bradner.

The conference report incorporates a revision of the Goodling amendment negotiated by the chairman, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GOODLING]. I believe that he will be speaking

on the substance of this agreement, and I will leave the description of it to him.

Goals 2000 State grants are funded at \$464 million below last year's level.

The conference report prohibits OSHA from issuing any standards on ergonomics and prohibits the enforcement of any volunteer guideline relating to ergonomics under the general duty. Again, this divisive issue was resolved by negotiation within the committee. I want to commend the gentleman from Texas [Mr. BONILLA] and the ranking member of both the subcommittee and the full committee, the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY], for their work in resolving this issue.

The conference report prohibits the expenditure of any further Federal funds for a new election for the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. The conference report prohibits the use of Federal funds for needle exchange programs for 6 months and provides conditions for the administration of such programs if the Secretary of Health and Human Services permits them.

I want to thank the gentleman from Mississippi and member of the subcommittee [Mr. WICKER] and the gentlewoman from California [Ms. PELOSI], a member of the subcommittee, and the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. HASTERT] for their work on this issue. While not all who worked on compromises are pleased with the final results, they all deserve our thanks for their hard work.

The conference report freezes funding for the National Labor Relations Board. In real terms, this funding level represents a cut in funding below fiscal year 1997. The gentleman from Arkansas [Mr. DICKEY] has been a particularly strong advocate in this area.

The conference report prohibits implementation of NLRB regulations regarding single site bargaining units. If implemented, this regulation would create a huge number of new organizing drives in small businesses and service sectors.

□ 1715

The conference report continues the shift of funding and emphasis within OSHA away from enforcement and toward compliance assistance. Compliance assistance increases by \$6.4 million, or 17 percent, while enforcement increases by \$3 million, only 2.3 percent.

Mr. Speaker, the bill provides increases for programs that fund Federal education mandates or Federal responsibilities. Special education is increased by \$775 million, an increase of 19 percent. This funding helps offset the mandates Federal law has placed on local school districts. The bill also provides \$805 million for Impact Aid to offset the additional costs and lost tax base resulting from Federal installations.

High priority programs are funded. NIH is increased by \$907 million, an in-

crease of 7.1 percent. This level will assure that the medical and economic benefits of biomedical research will continue. Within this funding level NIH will be able to increase funding for diabetes, Parkinson's disease, cancer, coronary/heart disease, and others at rates greater than the overall increase for NIH.

Other high priority items such as CDC, infectious disease control, breast and cervical cancer screening, TRIO, programs to prevent violence against women and health professionals training, are all increased.

Pell grants, essentially a Federal voucher for college, are increased to a maximum of \$3,000 and the Secretary of Education is given discretion to allow more independent students to qualify for student aid. The conference report increases the income protection allowances for all students receiving Federal financial aid.

The bill includes an absolute prohibition on the use of human embryos in federally funded research, an initiative of the gentleman from Arkansas [Mr. DICKEY] and the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. WICKER].

In addition, the conference report also includes the Student Loan Consolidation Act. This bill passed the House October 21 as H.R. 2535. The bill would allow the consolidation of both direct and guaranteed loans and it exempts education tax credits from the calculation of student aid.

Mr. Speaker, there are many other provisions in this conference report that commend it to a broad spectrum of Members of the House. Probably the factor that I am most proud of is that from its inception to this very minute, this has been a bipartisan bill. I believe this conference report shows the benefit of this House following the instructions of the voters and putting aside partisan bickering and getting on with the business of governing. Mr. Speaker, I would urge the Members to support this conference report.

Mr. Speaker, I want to add at this point some additional personal comments. The passage of this bill is never easy and the fact that we are now about to complete action on it is testimony to the hard work of many, many people.

As I mentioned during the passage of the bill in the House, this bill has been supported, shaped and its progress furthered by the work of the members of the subcommittee: the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY], my ranking member, and the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. LIVINGSTON], the chairman of the committee. I have only the highest respect and admiration for them and for the work they accomplished in fashioning this bill.

I want to spend a moment expressing my gratitude and that of the committee for one of our very best staffers who is leaving after this session to take another job. I am referring to Sue Quantius who is on the floor with us today.

Sue is leaving the committee to take a position with the Association of American Universities. She has been with the committee since 1989 and has been assigned to the Labor-HHS subcommittee the entire time. Prior to that time she worked for the Senate Appropriations Committee and for the Office of Management and Budget. She has served our country with extreme dedication and distinction for all of this time.

With our subcommittee, her responsibilities have primarily been with various health programs that we fund, including most especially the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. As Members know, I have had a particular interest in NIH over the years. Since I have been chairman, Sue has been a great help to me, especially with regard to NIH. Mr. Speaker, she has done absolutely magnificent work. I just do not know how we are going to replace her. We are all going to miss her very, very much. We wish her the very best of everything as she undertakes her new responsibilities. I hope that she will continue to stay in touch with all of us.

Finally, I want to express my thanks to the staff of the gentleman from Wisconsin, including Cheryl Smith, Mark Mioduski and Scott Lilly, his able staff director. As always, we have had the work of the full committee staff, headed by Jim Dyer, that has been invaluable to us.

I want to express my appreciation in addition to Sue Quantius; to my own subcommittee staff, Mike Myers, Bob Knisley, Tony McCann as well as Julie Debolt and Dr. David Sander of my own staff. Without the assistance of each of these individuals and their support and the support of many more, we would not have been able to achieve this conference report which will, I believe, be passed and signed into law by the President.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 8½ minutes. Before I get into the bill, I would simply like to take a moment to also, from the minority side of the aisle, extend our best wishes to Sue Quantius as she leaves to pursue other opportunities in life. As the subcommittee chairman indicated, Sue has been with our subcommittee for 9 years. She has worked for four full committee chairmen during that time, including myself and the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. LIVINGSTON]. The gentleman from Illinois kindly left out that Sue had the great misfortune to begin her public service by serving as an intern on the Commission on Administrative Review, which was a reform commission which I chaired. We got half of our package through, the ethics package, but the other half of the package, the administrative changes in the House, were abruptly interrupted by a resounding "no" vote on the rule, and it took about 10 years for

most of those recommendations to be adopted on a piecemeal basis. That was an ignominious beginning to a distinguished career. I simply want to say that her work on biomedical research, on health issues in general and other issues has been superb. The public has been greatly served. Sue is another one of those persons about whom the public never hears much but without whom Government simply would not work. I appreciate the work that she has done for all of us.

Mr. Speaker, one of my closest friends in politics is a man from Ireland by the name of John Hume. John Hume has noted on many occasions that politics is supposed to be the settlement of fiercely held differences by peaceful means. As people know, I do not shrink from political fights or arguments, and I do not shrink from fights on substance. But I prefer not to have them. I think that we are all, or we all ought to be, happiest on this House floor when we are pursuing politics not as war but as a method by which we accomplish important things for the people we represent.

This bill more than any other bill that the Congress passes does that. This bill affects more human beings, more families in this country than any other bill that we touch. I think it is worthy of note to compare the atmosphere in which this bill was debated just 2 years ago with the atmosphere in which it is being debated today. Two years ago, this bill attempted to cut key programs for education and health and worker protection by some \$6 billion. Those efforts to cut programs such as education and health and worker training were a principal reason that the Government was shut down. Two years ago, education was cut in this bill by \$3.5 billion, worker protection by almost 15 percent, job training for unemployed workers by almost 30 percent. Assistance to low-income folks in order to heat their homes in the dead of winter was cut by about a third.

Today, in contrast, we do not have a Government shutdown. We do not have partisan warfare on this bill. The gentleman from Illinois is right. This bill has been pursued in a bipartisan way with a bipartisan coalition producing very positive results. This bill is \$5.8 billion above last year for key programs in it. The National Institutes of Health is increased by 7 percent. That means research that we do on all of the diseases that human beings fear, whether it is cancer or heart disease or Alzheimer's or Parkinson's or you name it. We are trying to make steady progress in attacking all of the diseases that plague mankind. Education is up by 12 percent, over \$3 billion. Pell grants have a 24-percent increase. Pell grants are the major program outside of student loans that help working-class kids get a decent education beyond high school.

We have provided a \$300 increase in the maximum grant for independent students and for dependent students. Special education services for disabled children, up by 18 percent in this bill.

We have bilingual education increased by 35 percent in this bill. We have the most important education reform effort since title I, \$150 million for comprehensive school reform to give local schools the tools to do the job locally in improving the operation of their schools so that they can raise student performance to meet high standards.

□ 1730

On education testing, we have a slightly different proposition from the original committee proposition. The administration can proceed with development of tests. It prevents field-testing in the first year, which originally would have been allowed by the original committee agreement. It prevents test administration for 1 year, in contrast to the original committee bill that would have had a permanent prohibition on testing without new authorization.

Worker protection, workers' rights to organize, to bargain for decent wages, to work in decent working conditions are all protected in contrast to the very sharp reductions made in those programs in past years, at least the attempts that were made.

We have a needle exchange program in here that may be controversial, but which will save lives, which may proceed after March 31 of next year.

This bill repeals the \$50 billion ripoff that was being provided in the tax bill for the tobacco industry.

It provides a \$100 million increase for low-income heating assistance program, a 10-percent increase.

Cuts in family planning are fully restored.

Goals 2000, we reached a compromise at last year's freeze level.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would say that this bill is worthy of the tradition left to this House by people like Bill Natcher and Silvio Conte who worked for years to make this a bipartisan product. It is, I think, something that Members can be proud of because the fight in the budget, after all, is not really about how much we spend, it is where we spend it, and at least on this side of the aisle, and I think a good many Members on that side of the aisle, as well, recognized that we need to put more of our funds into education, into health, into jobs, into job training, into worker protection.

That is what this bill does. It is, I think, a progressive effort to meet the Nation's needs, and I make no apology for the funding that we spend in it. It is spent on the people we represent for their most important long-term needs as families, and I would urge Members to support this bill.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. LIVINGSTON], the chairman of the full committee.

(Mr. LIVINGSTON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I believe very strongly that this bill represents the essence of what is good legislation and a great legislative process. The fact is that we looked at this bill

a very long time ago, some 6 months ago, and could tell that there was no way on God's Green Earth that this bill was going to pass without bipartisan support. There were Members on both sides who had problems with this bill, and there was a possibility that, if framed in an inappropriate manner, that the bill would never get signed into law, that we could end up in closure of government and repeat all the mistakes that have been made in the past with respect to issues involved in this bill.

Fact is we went through prolonged debate and through the incredible leadership of the chairman, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER], and ranking minority member of the full committee and the subcommittee, the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY], we were able to wend through the minefield of all of the obstacles and all of the hurdles that could have imploded this bill and prevented our ability to be here today.

For our Members in the minority, the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY] has listed a number of items of great importance to members of his party and to people throughout this country. In fact, there is lots more money for medical research and for education preferences.

But for our conservative friends, let me say also that following the allocation of money within the budget agreement, we were able to stop national education testing in its tracks with an agreement negotiated between President Clinton and the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GOODLING]. We expanded the traditional Hyde language to make sure no Federal funds were used to purchase health plans that would pay for abortions. There are additional prohibitions on the needle distribution exchange program so that the authorizers are able to get involved over the next 6 months and take further action. There is a prohibition on the use of human embryos for federally-funded research. There is a prohibition on the expenditure of Federal funds for a new Teamsters election. There is a prohibition on issuance of new OSHA standards on ergonomics. There is a freeze on funding for the NLRB, the National Labor Relations Board.

My conservative friends have had many objections about this bill, and many of their objections have been answered and have been recognized and codified into law in this bill.

Does it satisfy everybody? Of course not. But this is a bill which spends tens of billions of dollars on important projects still eliminates 7 programs that were unnecessary and concentrates the resources on those areas where we need them. I commend the people that have worked on this bill, and I urge the adoption of the conference report.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman I yield myself 30 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, I was remiss in not also indicating my profound appreciation for the way that the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER] has handled this bill as well as the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. LIVINGSTON]. We have certainly disagreed, sometimes vehemently, many times on many issues, but we have always tried to keep in mind that our obligation was in the end to bridge those differences, and in the case of Mr. PORTER we are dealing with a subcommittee chairman who not only feels his strong sense of obligation, but knows this bill and knows the programs in it, and that was always an invaluable help.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. STOKES].

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the conference report on H.R. 2264, and I want to commend our chairman, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER], and our ranking member, the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY], for their leadership in producing this conference agreement.

This measure represents the true spirit of bipartisan effort to craft a workable compromise on fiscal year 1998 funding for this bill. For example, the measure funds a youth opportunity areas initiative, which is urgently needed to address the continuing double-digit unemployment among our Nation's most disadvantaged youth. In many instances these young people have given up on themselves. I strongly believe that we must do all that we can to help ensure that all of our Nation's young people are equipped with the knowledge and the skills that they need to compete in and remain in the work force.

For undergraduate historically black colleges and universities, the bill provides \$118.5 million. The HBCU is a national resource, and this investment would help to strengthen the infrastructure at these vital institutions of higher education.

For the health professions education and training, the conference measure provides \$293 million. The funds are urgently needed to help ensure an adequate supply of health care providers. I know that the portion of the funds that are invested in training minorities and other individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds will help to address the continuing shortage of health care providers in our Nation's inner cities and rural communities, and it would help also to address the continuing disparity in minority health.

Mr. Speaker, the \$529.7 million provided for the trio programs and the \$7.3 billion in support of the Pell grant program would help to ensure the students will not only enter college, but more importantly, they will have access to support services they need in order to help ensure their retention and graduation.

I am pleased that the conference report is not excessively overburdened with major legislative provisions.

On the issue of national testing, I am encouraged that we have been able to reach an interim position, and I look forward to working closely with the authorizers on this very important matter.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting yes on the conference report on H.R. 2264.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. WICKER], a valued member of our subcommittee.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois for yielding the time.

I want to commend the chairman of the subcommittee as well as the ranking member of this subcommittee for the hard work and negotiation and the lengthy time that they put into this very important legislation. I support it. I hope we have strong support from both sides of the aisle for this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, it is not the type of bill that I would have written had I been writing it in a vacuum. It might not be a better bill if I wrote it, but it would be a different bill. But just think about this, Mr. Speaker, this is the first conference report on Labor HHS appropriation that we have had in 3 years, and I think it is better for this House and for the Senate and for the process to work its will rather than to go with continuing resolutions and resolve the issues that way.

I think the leadership is to be commended for pushing this through and for us finally getting to this stage for the first time in 3 years of actually being able to have a conference committee report a bill and for us to vote on it.

I commend the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. LIVINGSTON], and Mr. Livingston spoke about the things that were achieved for conservatives. I think members of my party should realize that Mr. LIVINGSTON is himself a conservative, and he has worked hard for those issues that are important on our side of the aisle.

It has already been mentioned that this bill before us today contains the Goodling language that stops national testing. It contains an expansion of the Hyde amendment; a moratorium for the first 6 months of this fiscal year on needle exchange programs funded by taxpayer funds, which will allow the Congress to work its will on an authorizing piece of legislation next year; a prohibition on the use of human embryos for federally-funded research, again a very important issue to conservatives around this Nation.

The bill also contains important modifications in the law with regard to OSHA to make sure that we protect American jobs at the same time that we are protecting and looking out for workers' health and safety, and in addition a freeze on funding for the National Labor Relations Board and a host of other issues that are important to conservatives.

This is a contentious bill. Any time we talk about the Department of Labor, the subgroups there, NLRB, OSHA, and then throw in HHS with needle exchanges and the entire issues of Federal education policy, we are going to have a contentious bill. But I commend the leadership for moving us in the right direction. I commend the bill to conservatives, and I hope on my side of the aisle we will have a tremendous vote in favor of the bill.

And then let us not lose sight of the fact that we are doing important things to prevent disease and to protect the health of Americans in this legislation.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California [Ms. PELOSI], a member of the subcommittee.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished ranking member for his leadership on this bill and for yielding me the time.

I rise in support of the Labor-HHS conference report. In particular I commend the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER] and the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY] for negotiating an excellent bipartisan bill, a bill in which the subcommittee can take considerable pride.

This conference report is a refreshing change from last 2 years when the bill had been the focus of deep ideological disputes and a vehicle for sending objectionable legislative riders to the President. Thankfully, thanks to the leadership also of our chairman of the full committee, the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. LIVINGSTON], as well as the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER] and the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY], we have returned to the bipartisan tradition which has historically characterized this bill. As our former chairman Mr. Natcher would say, this is a good bill.

□ 1745

While this is a good bill, it is good because of the excellent work again, as I said, of the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER] and the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY], who fought very hard to forge this bipartisan legislation. We were given many difficult challenges by the Committee on the Budget, so that many problems that, ironically, it may have forced this responsible bipartisan bill.

I want to thank the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY] in particular for doing such an excellent job in reflecting progressive values in these negotiations.

With regard to labor programs, the bill makes significant investments in job training, Job Corps, Job Youth and adult training. At the same time, the bill adequately funds worker protection programs, and, unlike, the last 2 years, does not include riders designed to weaken the protection of American workers.

I am particularly pleased under an agreement negotiated by the gentleman from Illinois [Chairman PORTER] and the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY], OSHA will be able to continue its important work in developing an ergonomic standard and will be able to assist business in the next year to adopt important changes in work environment designed to prevent repetitive stress injuries.

With regard to health, the bill is a significant improvement over the budget agreement. In addition, the bill provides huge increases in AIDS drug assistance programs, and also will make a difference between life and death for thousands of Americans living with HIV disease.

I am also particularly pleased with the compromise in the legislation about the needle exchange program which the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER] addressed in his remarks. This compromise, I think, will enable the needle exchange programs which are part of a HIV prevention program and which do not increase the use of drugs to proceed, and it retains for the Secretary the discretion, unless Congress works its will between now and next spring, to lift the prohibition on needle exchange programs, as long as, as I say, they are part of a program to prevent HIV and drug abuse.

With regard to education, I am pleased that so many of the President's important education priorities have been accommodated in this bill. I am particularly pleased with the funding for the bilingual education and the investment and support services and professional development to improve the quality of these programs. I am also pleased with the high priority placed on direct financial assistance to students for higher education.

For all these reasons, this is a great bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Kentucky [Mrs. NORTHUP], the newest member of our subcommittee team, who has done an absolutely outstanding job, the best of any freshman I have ever seen.

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have an opportunity to speak about this bill and to have served on this subcommittee. I want to also thank the subcommittee chair and the ranking member and the other members of the subcommittee that have worked so hard on this bill.

Many of the benefits of this bill, the appropriations that we have made, have been discussed previously, but I would just like to say that one of the reasons this is such a tough bill is because education and health are intrinsically different than anything else we spend our money for.

It is one thing to be dispassionate about road construction or military buildup, but it is impossible to be dispassionate about our children. Moms and dads across this country feel pas-

sionately and emotionally about the schools that their children attend and whether or not they learn and how much they learn and whether they are prepared for the future.

This world is changing. The world our children will know will be different than the world that we have known, and they have to be prepared in different ways and for different experiences. The way they will be pioneers in their lives will be different than the way we are pioneers in our lives. So as our schools are grappling with change, it is difficult for their moms and dads and for all of us to pick the best of what we have and make sure we continue that and prepare it in new ways for new worlds.

We are also confused and not certain about what the Federal role is going to be in an educational system that has largely heretofore been a state responsibility and organization. Assuming that will continue and that we will expect schools to succeed locally, we are looking for the way that the best Federal investment can be made in our schools.

So I want to say that education is different. It is different than road construction. The fact that there is an unpatched pothole is not very emotional, but if your child goes to school and does not learn to read, that is very emotional.

I want to in particular thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the subcommittee chairman, for your commitment to the blind community and the deaf community. I have served very closely with the blind community in Louisville. We happen to be the home for the American Printing House for the Blind. My husband and I have been very involved in this community, and we recognized here in this bill the importance of continued access that the blind community needs to those services. So I wanted to thank the gentlemen in particular for that.

Mr. Speaker, I recommend this bill to the rest of the Members.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Maryland [Mr. HOYER].

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the conference report and to congratulate and thank both the chairman, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER], with whom I have served on this committee for, I suppose, all of my career on the committee, which is from 1983 to date, and also to congratulate the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY].

Mr. Speaker, in many ways this is a bill that is not difficult from the standpoint that almost every member of Congress and the overwhelming majority of Americans probably believe it is the most important bill that we consider in this House on an annual basis as it affects themselves, their families, their children, the education of this Nation, as well as their children, the

health care of themselves and this Nation.

Our former chairman, Mr. Natcher, used to say that if you take care of the health of your people and provide for the education of your children, you will continue to live in the strongest and best nation on Earth. He was correct. He said this was the People's House and that this was the people's bill. He was also correct in that.

But it is also a very difficult bill, because the priorities within the bill are agreed by all to be principal priorities, and, therefore, the allocation of resources between them is difficult.

Both the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman PORTER) and the ranking member, the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY], are always under a great deal of pressure, and the supplicants or the lobbyists or the interests that are represented in this bill are all good, and, therefore, it is very difficult to say no.

This bill, I think, represents a good piece of legislation, of which the American public can be proud. It was forged in a bipartisan basis, sometimes contentious, because there are strong differences on many issues. But this bill as it relates to education, unlike, frankly, some previous bills in previous Congresses, reflects a commitment to invest in the future of our country by investing in our children.

Head Start is increased, critically important, to make sure that our disadvantaged children have an opportunity to be competitive, both in education and in the marketplace. It is important that they be partners as America completes in the global marketplace.

Chapter I, that tries to ensure that those same children and others who may have been disadvantaged in life will not be disadvantaged in terms of the focus of this Congress and of the education establishment, in making sure that we make a special effort to give them the capacity to learn, to work and to compete.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of this conference report, which reflects a compromise, testing having been one of the more difficult items, block grants as opposed to categorical expenditures being another. But they were debated, sometimes hotly, strongly held views, but ultimately, through the leadership of the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER] and the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY], and I might also say the chairman of our committee, the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. LIVINGSTON], who has done such an outstanding job leading the Committee on Appropriations through this difficult process, we have a bill of which we can all be proud and which we can enthusiastically support.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GOODLING], the very able chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

(Mr. GOODLING asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I would first like to thank the chairman and the ranking member, the subcommittee chairman, and all the conferees for their hard work on a report that is always very difficult. I am sure I helped make it even more difficult. The national testing issue did not make it any easier for them. However, it was one of the most important policy battles I think we have had to fight. We all want quality education, high academic standards, for all of our children, and we believe parents and local governments can best do that.

I want to thank the 295 Members and particularly the Speaker and the gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. GRAHAM] for all of their help and their support, and particularly the staffs, the staff of the Appropriations Committee, the staff of my committee. If we had to pay all the overtime that they would have earned, we would be out of money for the rest of the year, I suppose.

I also want to talk just a little bit about some of the other good things that are there as far as I am concerned. I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois [Chairman PORTER] and the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY] for keeping their commitment to increase funding for special ed in the conference report. The agreement continues to make great strides toward meeting our obligations to State and local school districts through a near \$700 million increase to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

I am pleased the report provides increases to other high-priority programs such as Even Start and Chapter 2 education and block grants to the States.

I want to thank the appropriators for including the Emergency Student Loan Consolidation Act, which will mean an awful lot to parents and students.

Finally, the bill makes important changes to the need analysis formula in the Higher Education Act, which ensures that students and families who qualify for new higher education tax credits will not be penalized in the Federal Government's determination of eligibility and student financial aid.

I thank again all who put this appropriations bill together. It is a very important bill, and I am sure it will receive overwhelming support.

Mr. Speaker, I'd first like to thank the chairman, the ranking member, and other conferees for their hard work on the conference report. The Labor, HHS bill is never an easy task. And the national testing issue did not make it any easier.

I am pleased to announce that, we have finally reached an agreement on testing. I wish to thank the Chairman and Ranking member and many other members of Congress for their input and hard work on this important matter. It was truly a team effort.

Three months ago when members of the House decided to fight the President's plan to

give new federal tests to our school children, we started with children in mind. From the beginning, we believed that a new federal test would do nothing to help our children. If more testing were the answer to the problems in our schools, testing would have solved them a long time ago.

Everyone in this body supports high standards and accountability. No question about that. But we all agree new federal tests created by Washington bureaucrats are not the answer.

Most importantly the conference report stops the Department of Education's plans for new national tests for one year. As a result, this House—not the White House—now controls this issue.

This agreement stops the President's plan in its tracks for one year by prohibiting pilot testing, field testing, implementation, administration, and implementation of new national tests.

The White House acknowledges that Congress will now play a very large role in deciding if, how, and when any new national tests will be implemented, if at all.

The Administration recognizes that existing commercial tests now used in the states may very well fit their purposes and provide the kind of information we need to adequately assess our students. We have agreed to have the National Academy of Sciences study this issue and report back to us next fall.

A few other key points of the conference agreement are: The existing test development contract entered into by the Department of Education will be transferred out of the Department to the National Assessment Governing Board; the National Academy of Sciences will study the technical quality of the test items already developed by the Department and recommend safeguards against tests being used in an inappropriate manner; no student is required to take any national test in any subject or grade; the Committee on Education and the Workforce will hold several hearings on the National Assessment Governing Board and the National Assessment of Educational Progress during the first half of 1998. At that time, the President will have an opportunity to have his testing proposal fully debated, and Congress will have the opportunity to work its will.

This is a clear victory. It affirms the 295–125 vote last month prohibiting funds for new federal tests. I thank each of those 295 members who voted for the Goodling Amendment and stood with us in our negotiations with the White House.

On other matters, I want to thank Chairman PORTER and Mr. OBEY for keeping their commitment to increase funding for special education in this conference report. This agreement continues to make great strides toward meeting our obligations to States and local school districts through a nearly \$700 million increase to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Grants to States.

Second, I am pleased that the conference report provides increases to other high-priority programs, such as Even Start and Chapter 2 education block grants to States.

Third, I want to thank the appropriators for including the Emergency Student Loan Consolidation Act. This bill passed the House by a voice vote on October 21st, but stalled in the Senate until today. The bill will help thousands of students who have been unable to

obtain a consolidation loan due to the Department of Education's shutdown of their direct loan consolidation processing center.

Finally, this bill makes important changes to the need analysis formula in the Higher Education Act which will ensure that students and families who qualify for the new higher education tax credits will not be penalized in the Federal Government's determination of eligibility for student financial aid.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York [Mrs. LOWEY], also a member of the subcommittee.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I am proud of this conference report. The committee, under the strong leadership of the gentleman from Illinois, Chairman PORTER and the ranking member, the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY], along with our Senate colleagues, succeeded in producing a bill which reflects our shared priorities.

We worked very hard on this bill, and this bill truly reflects a real bipartisan effort. Again, I want to thank the chairman and the ranking member for creating the atmosphere and the commitment among all of us to work together.

I also want to thank the staffs on both sides who have been so very helpful and cooperative in reaching our goals.

Mr. Speaker, this conference report recognizes the clear need for an increased investment in our children's education. I am pleased that we were able to provide \$3.2 billion more than last year in funds for education. In particular, I am pleased that \$40 million in new funds have been provided to keep our schools open after hours in order to provide a safe haven for our youth and to improve reading and other academic skills.

We increased the maximum Pell grant by \$300 per student and overall Pell funding by \$1.4 billion. The bill also includes language expanding the eligibility of independent and dependent students for Pell grants. In addition, we were able to restore funding to the SSIG student aid program which helps so many young people get that education.

We made a number of significant increases in health programs. We were able to provide the National Institutes of Health with a 7 percent increase over last year. This will allow the National Institutes of Health to increase funding for breast cancer research and other dreaded diseases so that advances in prevention and treatment will continue.

Funding for AIDS drug assistance has been increased by \$119 million more than last year. This will help to provide life-sustaining medicine to AIDS patients across the country.

I am also very pleased that we provided \$268 million for job training. In part, these funds will help to assist those on welfare so they can better obtain decent-paying jobs.

While I am disappointed that the Hyde amendment restricting access to abortion for low-income women is still in this bill, I am very pleased that we were able to prevent a radical expansion of this prohibitive restriction.

□ 1800

The bill also repeals the \$50 billion tuberculosis giveaway.

Of course, there are some programs that I wish we could have expanded even more: Worker protection, title I education, and Centers for Disease Control are among those programs. However, on balance, I believe that this is a very good bill that meets so many of the important needs of our constituents, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. SOUDER].

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman for yielding me this time.

Compromise is probably not my greatest strength, and while there are many good things in this bill, there are many things that I not only dislike, I detest, but that is kind of the rule of how compromise works, and I appreciate working with the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER], the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY], with the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. LIVINGSTON] and all of the others on this committee.

When asked at the press conference today, "It's not a disappointment then, in the end?", Mr. McCurry was asked about the national testing, and he said, "Well, I mean in a perfect world we would have gotten our plan as it was designated by the Secretary of Education and the President, but it's not a perfect world when you have a Republican Congress, to say the very least." And that is an accurate statement about how things work.

I appreciate the time we had to debate it and to air our differences. I think we have made progress on some of the issues for the movement conservatives, particularly on testing. We held a number of other issues. I probably will not say this too many times in my career, but I intend to vote for a Labor-HHS appropriations bill, and I appreciate the process we went through. I think it is a reasonable compromise given the differences we have between the House and the Senate and the President, and I thank the leadership for that.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO], also a member of the subcommittee.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this conference report, and I would like to thank Chairman PORTER and Ranking Member OBEY for their hard work and their bipartisan spirit. I am pleased that it contains a substantial increase for health research at the NIH, for disease prevention work at the

Centers for Disease Control, and for important educational programs such as Head Start and IDEA.

I am especially proud that the conference report includes a substantial increase in funding for quality care, child care for children under the age of 3. New research has shown that the early years are a critical time of intellectual, emotional, moral, and physical development, which prepare a child to be healthy and productive in later life. We cannot afford to waste these critical learning years.

This conference report includes a \$50 million increase in the child care and development block grant for States to improve the quality of care for our youngest children. It also includes \$69 million more than the President requested to expand the Early Start, zero to 3 program, within Head Start. These funds will give thousands of additional children an opportunity to have the very best start in life.

I am pleased that the bill includes funding to improve our schools and hold our students to the highest standards, including the \$200 million for whole school reform, to assist our least successful students in meeting educational goals. I have the experience of New Haven, CT and the Kolmer model of schools to point to as how whole school reform can work and does work.

Throughout this process, we have at times faced the possibility that the bipartisanship would be undermined by controversial riders regarding abortion, parental consent for contraceptives, needle exchange and other issues. I am glad to say that none of these controversial riders are in this bill.

I am pleased to support this conference report, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for its passage.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas [Mr. BENTSEN].

(Mr. BENTSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, and I agree, I think it is a very good compromise. When we look at the levels of funding in this bill, it underscores that in a period of balancing budgets and a decline in discretionary spending what some of the priorities of the Government are, and I think this is a victory in many areas.

In particular, I want to commend the chairman of the subcommittee and the ranking member for the increase in the National Institutes of Health funding by 7 percent. It was not too long ago in 1995 when this House passed a budget that would have cut NIH funding by 5 percent in real terms. So this is a step in the right direction.

Given the fact that the House may or may not in the next couple of days take up the issue of trade, it is important that we continue to put funds into biomedical research and what the NIH does, because that is an area where America leads the world.

Second of all, from what I can tell from the bill, it does not make the changes that were proposed in the immunization funding or that would have affected the carryover funds. That is terribly important to my State of Texas and my home city of Houston, which could have been adversely affected by cutting back on the carryover funding that is used a great deal in the City of Houston which has an expanding immunization program, particularly for the indigent, and I appreciate the fact that the committee was wise enough not to cut those funds back.

I want to commend again the chairman and the ranking member. This is a good bill. I intend to support it, and I hope my colleagues will do so.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. HOYER].

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I see that Sue Quantius is back. As I said, the chairman and I have been on this subcommittee I think just about the same time. I think he has been on maybe a session before me. Sue Quantius, I am not sure how long Sue has been with us, but I know she worked on the Senate side.

I mentioned the health care of our people, and I know it is a particular interest of the chairman, and our expert on the committee is Sue Quantius. She has done an outstanding job; she is one of the most knowledgeable people in Washington on health care issues and particularly on NIH funding and NIH resources, objectives, and responsibilities. I want to rise, as I know the chairman has, and as I know the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY] has, in thanking her for the service that she has given.

The American public and this House ought to be very proud of the staff of the Committee on Appropriations. It is arguably the most bipartisan, non-partisan staff on Capitol Hill. To the great credit of the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. LIVINGSTON], our chairman, when he became chairman, most of the staff stayed because we all on both sides of the aisle perceive them as very true professionals who know their subject, who work hard, have great talent and great commitment to the product of this committee and to this country.

Sue, on behalf of myself and all of us on this side of the aisle, and I know the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY] has already done that, and I know our present chairman in office has done that, but I want to join them and say thank you and to wish you Godspeed. Your next endeavor, your next employer is a very fortunate entity indeed. Thank you very much.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas [Mr. EDWARDS].

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago I met a young Army soldier in my

district who had missed the birth of his first child because he was serving our Nation in Desert Storm. He then missed the birth of his second child because he was doing his duty, as his Nation called him to do, in Bosnia.

There is nothing this Congress can do to make up for the sacrifice of that young Army soldier. But what I am deeply grateful for is that through the leadership of Chairman PORTER and Ranking Member OBEY, this Nation has made a commitment through the Impact Aid Program to see that that young soldier when he is serving thousands of miles away from his family, serving his country, he or she can be sure that his or her sons and daughters will receive a firstclass education. It seems to me that that is a moral duty of this Congress. It is also the right thing to do to ensure a strong national defense, because all of the technology in the world, without the best and brightest soldiers and Marines and Navy pilots and sailors, will not ensure our Nation's defense.

So I want to thank, not only for the whole effort of this tremendous piece of legislation, but in particular, I want to thank the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY] and the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER] for their outstanding leadership and not forgetting those young children and military families who may not ever see their parents at graduation because their parents may end up giving the ultimate sacrifice in time of war.

This is a great bill, and particularly on impact aid. I say thank you.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. SKELTON].

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me join my friend from Texas in complimenting the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER] and our ranking member the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY]. I represent a district that has Whiteman Air Force Base and Fort Leonard Wood, both of whom are areas that are heavily impacted by the Federal Government, the Federal reservations, and impact aid is so important for those children. We have to take care of the families of the people in uniform and this is a wonderful way to do it. So I join my friend from Texas [Mr. EDWARDS] in complimenting them and thanking this committee for the effort.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 3 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, as we wind up this first session of the 105th Congress, all of us I think are pretty well exhausted. We have had little sleep night after night, especially during the last week. We have been in intense negotiations for hours and hours on end. Nerves are frazzled. We say things we may not mean. We make accusations that are perhaps unfounded. We even raise questions about the processes of democracy so that we can have things come out our way. It is a time when Republicans sometimes are fighting it out with

Democrats, the White House is fighting it out with the Congress, the Senate is fighting it out with the House, authorizers are opposite appropriators, committee chairmen are against other committee chairmen, and often things get a bit out of hand.

Several of the bills, there are four that remain, including this one, have been subject to intense negotiations. This conference report has certainly been one of them. But in the end, Mr. Speaker, all of us believe in the processes of democracy that allow us to work with one another and to find the middle, the place where the American people are. Compromise in my judgment is not at all a bad word, it is exactly what our Founders envisioned for us. It was their intent that we had to cooperate with one another, work together as Americans, and find how we can best reflect the values of the American people.

□ 1815

So, Mr. Speaker, I believe that this bill truly does represent, through bipartisan work, through true compromise, through honest negotiation, exactly what the American people expect of us.

I am very proud that this year we have managed to work together and managed to work through a very, very difficult process, and still come out with great respect for one another. I have tremendous respect for my colleague, the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY]. I think we do work well together. That is a very positive thing.

I believe we have fashioned a bill that really does reflect the values of this country, and have done so in a very strong, bipartisan fashion, in the true traditions of the democracy of this great land we all are privileged to live in and to serve.

Mr. Speaker, I would commend this bill to each of the Members. I think we have done the best job that possibly could have been done. I thank everyone for their willingness to work together.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY] is recognized for 3½ minutes.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I simply would like to do two things. First of all, the gentleman from Illinois, Chairman PORTER, was gracious enough to mention the contributions made by all our staffers on both sides on the committee.

I would also like to add, in addition to my staffers who have already been cited by the chairman, I would also like to add Christina Hamilton, from my personal office, who worked very hard on this bill.

I would also like to express our best wishes to a very dedicated staffer who has worked for the gentlewoman from California [Ms. PELOSI] for the past 10 years on this bill. Dr. Steve Morin is moving back to San Francisco. We will

miss his expertise on many health and labor programs, most notably, his great work on the issues relating to AIDS, and trying to minimize the terrible damage that that disease causes, and giving researchers the resources they need to search for a cure.

I think this is a very progressive bill, and I would point out once again, if I could have had my way, this bill would have at least \$5 billion more in this devoted to education and health and worker protection. But this bill is \$900 million above the bill as it left the House. That is not bad, under these circumstances.

I again congratulate each and every member of the subcommittee, and the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER] and the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. LIVINGSTON], and all of the Members on my side of the aisle, for working so hard to both define their views and to resolve their differences.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am rising today to clarify an amendment offered by Representative CAROLYN MCCARTHY and myself that was included in the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill. The amendment added \$100,000 to the Department of Education's Program Administration account so that the Department can expand its web site to include information for all public and private scholarship and financial aid programs.

It is my understanding that the committee report includes explicit language stating that the conferees have agreed that the funds are specifically included to enable the Department to expand its web site to provide this information, pursuant to Section 409A(1) of the Higher Education Act. This provision states that the Department of Education shall award a contract to maintain a computerized database of all private and public student financial assistance programs. Our amendment is geared to help the Department fulfill this goal.

I thank the Committee chairmen and staff for working with us on this matter to help ensure that the Department will receive the funding it needs for this important project.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member is pleased that the fiscal year 1998 Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations Act conference report contains several provisions regarding important rural health programs which benefit rural communities across the nation, as well as continued funding for the Ellender Fellowships. In addition, this Member would like to commend the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. LIVINGSTON], the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, the distinguished gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY], the ranking member of both the full Committee and the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Porter), the Chairman of the Subcommittee, for their work on these important issues.

Regarding rural health funding, this Member would like to specifically mention two programs which this Member strongly supports and has expressed this support together with other members of the House Rural Health Care Coalition to the Subcommittee. These programs are Rural Outreach Grants, and the National Health Service Corps.

This conference report includes \$32.6 million for Rural Outreach Grants, which is an increase of \$4.8 million above the fiscal year 1997 level and \$7.6 million above the amount requested by the President. This important program support projects that provide health services to rural populations not currently receiving them and that enhance access to existing services.

The National Health Service Corps receives \$115.4 million in this conference report, which is equivalent to both the fiscal year 1997 level and the amount requested by the President. One of the top health care concerns in rural America is the shortage of physicians and other health professionals due to the difficulties rural areas have in attracting and retaining primary health care professionals. The National Health Service Corps program addresses this need by providing scholarships to, and repays loans of, primary care professionals in exchange for obligated services in a Health Professional Shortage Area.

The program also provides matching grants to states for a loan repayment program. These incentives for health professionals and physicians to serve in rural areas are greatly needed.

This Member is also pleased that this conference report includes \$1.5 million for Ellender fellowships. Earlier this year, this Member testified before the subcommittee regarding this important program. This amount is the same as the fiscal year 1997 level, even though the President's budget did not include any funds for the extraordinary valuable citizen education program for American high school students. The Ellender Fellowships are used to enable low-income students to participate in the highly successful Washington Close Up program.

Each year the Close Up foundation awards thousands of Ellender Fellowships, which included 3,942 students during the 1995–1996 school year. Nationally, since 1971 over 480,000 students and teachers have participated in the Washington Close Up Program. Almost 95,000 of those participants received full or partial fellowships.

Again, Mr. Speaker, this Member commends the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. LIVINGSTON], the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, the distinguished gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY], the ranking member of both the full committee and the subcommittee, and the distinguished gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER], for their continued support of these important programs.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the conference report.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the conference report.

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XV, the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were— yeas 352, nays 65, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 615]

YEAS—352

Abercrombie	Ewing	Livingston
Ackerman	Farr	LoBiondo
Allen	Fattah	Lofgren
Andrews	Fawell	Lowey
Arney	Fazio	Lucas
Baessler	Filner	Luther
Baker	Foglietta	Maloney (CT)
Baldacci	Foley	Maloney (NY)
Ballenger	Forbes	Manton
Barcia	Ford	Markey
Barrett (NE)	Fossella	Martinez
Barrett (WI)	Fowler	Mascara
Bass	Fox	Matsui
Bateman	Franks (NJ)	McCarthy (MO)
Becerra	Frelinghuysen	McCarthy (NY)
Bentsen	Frost	McCrery
Bereuter	Furse	McDade
Berman	Galleghy	McGovern
Berry	Ganske	McHale
Bilbray	Gejdenson	McHugh
Bilirakis	Gekas	McInnis
Bishop	Gephardt	McIntyre
Blagojevich	Gibbons	McKeon
Bliley	Gilchrest	McKinney
Boehlert	Gilman	McNulty
Boehner	Goodling	Meehan
Bonilla	Gordon	Meek
Bonior	Goss	Menendez
Bono	Graham	Metcalf
Borski	Granger	Millender
Boswell	Green	McDonald
Boucher	Greenwood	Miller (CA)
Boyd	Gutierrez	Miller (FL)
Brown (CA)	Gutknecht	Minge
Brown (FL)	Hall (OH)	Mink
Brown (OH)	Hall (TX)	Moakley
Bunning	Hamilton	Mollohan
Burr	Hansen	Moran (VA)
Burton	Harman	Morella
Buyer	Hastert	Murtha
Callahan	Hastings (FL)	Myrick
Calvert	Hayworth	Nadler
Camp	Hefner	Neal
Campbell	Herger	Nethercutt
Canady	Hilliard	Ney
Cardin	Hinches	Northup
Carson	Hinojosa	Nussle
Castle	Hobson	Oberstar
Chambliss	Holden	Obey
Christensen	Hooley	Olver
Clay	Horn	Ortiz
Clayton	Houghton	Owens
Clement	Hoyer	Oxley
Clyburn	Hulshof	Packard
Combest	Hunter	Pallone
Condit	Hyde	Pappas
Cook	Jackson (IL)	Parker
Cooksey	Jackson-Lee	Pascrell
Costello	(TX)	Pastor
Coyne	Jefferson	Payne
Cramer	Jenkins	Pease
Cummings	John	Pelosi
Cunningham	Johnson (CT)	Peterson (PA)
Danner	Johnson (WI)	Pickering
Davis (FL)	Johnson, E. B.	Pickett
Davis (IL)	Kanjorski	Pitts
Davis (VA)	Kaptur	Pomeroy
Deal	Kasich	Porter
DeFazio	Kelly	Portman
DeGette	Kennedy (MA)	Poshard
Delahunt	Kennedy (RI)	Price (NC)
DeLauro	Kennelly	Pryce (OH)
DeLay	Kildee	Rahall
Dellums	Kilpatrick	Ramstad
Deutsch	Kim	Rangel
Diaz-Balart	Kind (WI)	Redmond
Dickey	King (NY)	Regula
Dicks	Kingston	Reyes
Dingell	Klecza	Riggs
Dixon	Klink	Rivers
Doggett	Knollenberg	Rodriguez
Dooley	Kolbe	Roemer
Doyle	Kucinich	Rogan
Dreier	LaFalce	Rogers
Duncan	LaHood	Ros-Lehtinen
Dunn	Lampson	Rothman
Edwards	Lantos	Roukema
Ehlers	Latham	Roybal-Allard
Ehrlich	LaTourette	Rush
Emerson	Lazio	Sabo
Engel	Levin	Sanchez
English	Lewis (CA)	Sanders
Ensign	Lewis (GA)	Sandlin
Eshoo	Lewis (KY)	Sawyer
Etheridge	Linder	Saxton
Evans	Lipinski	Schumer

Scott	Spence	Upton
Serrano	Spratt	Velazquez
Shadegg	Stabenow	Vento
Shaw	Stark	Visclosky
Shays	Stenholm	Walsh
Sherman	Stokes	Waters
Shimkus	Strickland	Watkins
Shuster	Sununu	Watt (NC)
Sisisky	Tanner	Watts (OK)
Skaggs	Tauscher	Waxman
Skeen	Tauzin	Weldon (PA)
Skelton	Taylor (NC)	Weller
Slaughter	Thomas	Wexler
Smith (MI)	Thompson	Weygand
Smith (NJ)	Thornberry	White
Smith (OR)	Thune	Whitfield
Smith (TX)	Thurman	Wicker
Smith, Adam	Tierney	Wise
Smith, Linda	Torres	Wolf
Snyder	Towns	Woolsey
Solomon	Trafficant	Wynn
Souder	Turner	Young (AK)

NAYS—65

Aderholt	Goodlatte	Pombo
Archer	Hastings (WA)	Radanovich
Bachus	Hefley	Rohrabacher
Barr	Hill	Royce
Bartlett	Hilleary	Ryun
Barton	Hostettler	Salmon
Blunt	Hutchinson	Sanford
Brady	Inglis	Scarborough
Bryant	Istook	Schaefer, Dan
Cannon	Johnson, Sam	Schaffer, Bob
Chabot	Jones	Sensenbrenner
Chenoweth	Largent	Sessions
Coble	Manzullo	Snowbarger
Coburn	McIntosh	Stearns
Collins	Mica	Stump
Conyers	Moran (KS)	Stupak
Cox	Neumann	Talent
Crane	Norwood	Taylor (MS)
Crapo	Paul	Tiahrt
Doolittle	Paxon	Wamp
Everett	Peterson (MN)	Weldon (FL)
Goode	Petri	

NOT VOTING—16

Blumenauer	Hoekstra	Riley
Cubin	Klug	Schiff
Flake	Leach	Yates
Frank (MA)	McCollum	Young (FL)
Gillmor	McDermott	
Gonzalez	Quinn	

□ 1839

The Clerk announced the following pair:

On this vote:

Mr. Quinn for, with Mr. McCollum against.

Messrs. BRYANT, BARTON of Texas, and EVERETT changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

So the conference report was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS IN PREPARATION FOR ADJOURNMENT OF FIRST SESSION SINE DIE

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-391) on the resolution (H. Res. 311) providing for consideration of certain resolutions in preparation for the adjournment of the first session sine die, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.